



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

William R. Poynter, Esq.
Kaleo Legal
4456 Corporation Lane, Suite 135
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

JUL 10 2018

RE: MURs 7078 and 7084
Darek Dabbs
Sera-Brynn, LLC

Dear Mr. Poynter:

On June 15, 2016, the Federal Election Commission (the "Commission") notified your clients of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. On June 28, 2018, the Commission found that there is no reason to believe that Darek Dabbs or Sera-Brynn, LLC, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1). Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. *See* Disclosure of Certain Documents in Enforcement and Other Matters, 81 Fed. Reg. 50,702 (Aug. 2, 2016). The Factual and Legal Analysis, which explains the Commission's finding, is enclosed for your information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Shonkwiler".

Mark Shonkwiler
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
Factual and Legal Analysis

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

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3 **RESPONDENTS:** Stephen Baggs MUR: 7084
4 Systems Technology Forum, Ltd.
5 Thomas Bates
6 RK Chevrolet, Buick, Subaru, Inc.
7 Darek Dabbs
8 Sera-Brynn LLC
9 Eric Kimble
10 Kimble Companies/Penn-Ohio Coal Co.
11 Ronald Kramer
12 Kramer Management Enterprises, Inc.
13 Shawn Kuhle
14 Turner Strategic Technologies
15 Tactical Defense Solutions LLC
16 William W. Lee, Jr.
17 National Research Group, LLC
18 Bob Miller
19 Miller-Stephenson & Associates, P.C.
20 David H. Mutzabaugh
21 ThunderCat Technology, LLC
22 Richard D. Roberts
23 Norfolk Southern Corporation
24 Eric Sisco
25 Virginia International Gateway, Inc.
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27 **I. INTRODUCTION**

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29 This matter was generated by a Complaint filed with the Federal Election Commission by
30 Lisa Clarkson. The Complaint alleges multiple federal contractors violated the Federal Election
31 Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act") and Commission regulations, by contributing to
32 Scott Taylor for Congress (the "Committee"). For the reasons set forth below, the Commission
33 finds no reason to believe that the alleged federal contractors violated the Act or regulations.

II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Scott Taylor was a Member of the Virginia House of Delegates, and ran for Congress in Virginia's Second District in 2010 and 2016.¹ The Complaint alleges multiple federal contractors contributed to Taylor's congressional committee.²

Federal contractors may not make contributions to political committees, and a Committee may not knowingly solicit donations from federal contractors.³ This prohibition does not apply to individual employees of a federal contractor who are not themselves contractors.⁴ Employees of federal contractors may contribute to federal political committees using personal funds.⁵

The Committee alleges that the contributors identified by the Complaint are employees of federal contractors, not contractors themselves, and may contribute. Nearly all of the named contributors submitted responses affirming that they are not contractors, and that the funds used were personal and not directed by a contractor firm. One contributor did not respond, but the Commission has no information indicating that he is a federal contractor. The Commission therefore finds no reason to believe that the individuals named in the Complaint are federal contractors, and no reason to believe that they violated 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1).

¹ Taylor lost the Republican Primary in 2010, and won election to Congress in 2016.

² Compl. at II (June 14, 2016).

³ 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1)-(2); 11 C.F.R. § 115.2.

⁴ 11 C.F.R. § 115.6.

⁵ *Id.* Additionally, if a sole proprietorship is a federal contractor, the owner of that entity may not donate to federal campaigns using business, personal or other funds. *Id.* § 115.5.